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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Charles Q. Zhan, et al.
Serial No.: 10/717,406
Filed: November 19, 2003
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING
POSSIBLE DEFECT INDICATORS FOR A VALVE
Group No.: 2863
Examiner: Toan M. Le

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant submits this statement.

This submittal is made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and § 609 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. The patent and patent publications herein are listed below and on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A.

<u>U.S. Patent/Publication No.</u>	<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Date</u>
5,750,879	Ohtsuka et al.	May 12, 1998
2003/0216888 A1	Ridolfo	November 20, 2003
2004/0024568 A1	Eryurek et al.	February 5, 2004

Applicant hereby expressly reserves the right to swear behind the effective dates of any of the above patents and publications and to question the relevance and materiality of the patents and publications listed herein, in whole, in part, or in combination, subsequent to filing this Information Disclosure Statement.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e), the undersigned certifies that no item of information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Each item of information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited by the Patent Office in a related application in the Office Action mailed November 22, 2004 in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/717,086.

Further, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) and the above statements, no fee is believed to be due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Feb. 10, 2005

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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of 1

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/717,406
Filing Date	November 19, 2003
First Named Inventor	Charles Q. Zhan
Art Unit	2863
Examiner Name	Toan M. Le
Attorney Docket Number	I20 06741 US

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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